



September 8, 2004

Providence felon is sentenced to seven years in federal prison for gun possession

A federal judge today sentenced **Jeremy Hall**, 28, of Providence, to 84 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Providence Police arrested Hall in January after he had entered a house on California Street, armed with a gun, to confront someone. Hall has prior state convictions for drug trafficking and breaking and entering and, as a felon, is prohibited from possessing any guns.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Senior U.S. District Court Judge Ronald R. Lagueux imposed today in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In May, Hall, of 260 Adelaide Avenue, pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee said that the government had proof that, on January 27, Providence Police officers went to 241 California Avenue in answer to a call about a "man with a gun."

Police officers encountered residents leaving the single-family house, followed by Hall, whom residents described as the man who had the gun. Police recovered a .40 caliber pistol in a second floor bedroom. Hall admitted to police, and subsequently to an ATF agent, that he had gone to the house on California Avenue to confront a man whom he "had problems with."

Hall and another man, whom he did not identify, pushed their way into the house and went upstairs looking for the man. Hall said that, when he heard police officers arrive, he threw away the gun and started to leave the house. His companion had already left.

Hall was initially charged with state offenses and was subsequently charged federally after a joint review of the evidence by the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office.

Providence Police and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Chafee prosecuted it as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and have resulted in lengthy prison terms for gun offenders.

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